

November 12, 1951

Dear Mort:

Your letter mystifies me: I don't know what you mean by "-hint -hint!" Of course you can keep the reprints if they are of any use to you beyond a first reading, and I hope not to be so sloppy about future mailings.

The genetic problem you mentioned sounds to be quite interesting. But I still think you are quarrelling with your fate when you don't look into "star-forming" Agrobacteria. Just to show how far this can go, I'm starting something on Streptomyces (in spite of the technological importance and nonexistence of genetic information on them).

We'll be interested to hear how your new project develops. A Dr. Paul Manli (from Gembloux, Belgium) was visiting here a few weeks ago and told us about some experiments he has been doing, including the development of nodule-forming specificity in Radiobacter exposed repeatedly to sterile filtrates of various Rhizobia. The new types retain the serological reactions of the Radiobacter. Except that we're running into much the same sort of thing with Salmonella, I'd be less likely to believe it.

Sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg